



Reuse & Special Events Recycling Materials Conversion

MassDEP Municipal Waste Reduction Toolkit



Now that you've had your event, you'll want to know how much stuff was collected for recycling.

Assuming your materials are collected in separate streams (i.e. glass containers in one barrel, plastics in a different barrel, etc) or that you separate after the event, the following conversion factors can be used to calculate the tonnage of materials diverted from the trash.

From the University of Oregon (http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~recycle/site_map.htm)

MATERIAL CONVERSIONS TABLE:

Glass: One 55 gal. Barrel = 130 lbs
Metals: One 55 gal. Barrel = 88 lbs
Plastics: One 55 gal. Barrel = 29 lbs
Drink Boxes: One 55 gal. Barrel = 30.5 lbs
Deposit Cans: One 55 gal. Barrel = 20 lbs.
Paper: One 55 gal. Barrel = 115 lbs
Cardboard*: Amounts from Weyerhaeuser
Compost: One 55 gal. Rolling Cart = 120 lbs
Trash: Amounts from Garbage Hauler

*Cardboard Conversions:

1 1/2 yd. 100 lbs.
2 yd. 150 lbs.
3 yd. 300 lbs.

* These weights reflect a full bin with all cardboard flattened and consolidated

EPA (Source: <http://www.epa.gov/recycle/measure/docs/guide.pdf> (*Measuring Recycling: A Guide for State and Local Governments*; page 62: "Standard Waste Volume to Weight Conversion)

Material	Volume	Estimated Weight (in Pounds)
Cardboard boxes: un-compacted/ flattened	1 cubic yard	50-150
Newspaper: un-compacted	1 cubic yard	360-505
Mixed paper: flat	1 cubic yard	380/755
Glass: whole bottles	1 cubic yard	500-700
Aluminum cans: whole	1 cubic yard	50-70
Plastic soda bottles: whole	1 cubic yard	40
Wood pallets	1 cubic yard	515
Grease (fats, solid-liquid cooking oil)	55-gallon drum	410
Food Scraps	55-gallon drum	412
Batteries (auto)	each	39
Batteries (household)	5-gallon pail	40
Furniture (stuffed, ie couch)	1 cubic yard	80
Furniture (wood, ie table)	1 cubic yard	166
Mattress	each	70
CRT/Televisions	each	50



Textiles	1 cubic yard	175
Fluorescent Lamps	4 foot lamp	0.5
Paint	1 cubic yard box	690
Paint	55-gallon drum	450
Bicycle	each	30
Appliances	1 cubic yard	300
Air conditioner	each	64.2
Dishwasher	each	92
Dryer	each	130
Freezer	each	193
Microwave	each	50
Stove/Range	each	181.1
Refrigerator	each	267
Washer (clothes)	each	177
Water Heater	each	131

